

The LVEMP II Civil Society Watch E-bulletin

A Monthly from the **East African Sustainability Watch Network** comprising: Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development (TCSD) and Sustainable Environmental Development Watch Network (SusWatch Kenya)

September 2013

More eco-friendly projects under LVEMP II to benefit Communities in Kenya



Establishment of a tree nursery as part of the CDD

The Lake Victoria Environment Management Project – LVEMP II has launched more Community-Driven Development Sub-projects (CDDs) for communities around River Nyando as a way of re-directing community efforts from poor farming methods and improving their livelihoods through income generating and environmental friendly projects. LVEMP II will finance 21 projects at a cost of KShs24.1 million says the National Project Coordinator (NPC) Ms. Francisca Owuor. Speaking at the launch of the new funding in August 2013, she said the CDDs have been identified as priority by beneficiary communities around Lake Victoria

The NPC warned against misuse of funds saying the money has been given by donors who expect transparency and accountability of expenditure. “The beneficiaries should know the funding could stop if the money is not accounted for,” she noted. Earlier in the year, LVEMP II funded a total of 19 CDD Sub-projects for communities in Nandi South, Nandi East and Tinderet.

The projects include tree nursery projects and tree planting along the river. A group in Nandi South has protected Chebanganga water spring; which now supplies piped water to households. Conservation of the water source is also done by planting trees around to ensure clean water. Another group in Nandi South is undertaking a project in livestock improvement through zero grazing as a way of curbing overgrazing in the area which leads to soil erosion. With zero grazing, the community is also planting fodder grass as a sustainable supply of cattle feed but also as a way of reducing soil erosion.

Community groups also intend to improve the local cattle breeds through artificial insemination, which they hope will improve milk production. Through these projects, the community members’ livelihoods will be boosted and sustained. NPC said that so far 466,500 tree seedlings have been planted to restore forest cover where trees had been depleted. This is hoped to reduce environmental stress on Lake Victoria. Through LVEMP II a water quality laboratory in Kisumu has been fully rehabilitated and equipped. Also Beach Management Unit officials have been trained on management of fishery resources and 6,690 community members have been trained in project management which has improved their capacity to run their Community Demand Driven Sub-projects.

The World Bank Mission that visited Kenya earlier in June 2013 led by Senior Environmentalist Specialist Mr. Nagraja Rao Harsahadeep and Natural Resources Management & Environmental Specialist Mr. Stephen Ling made several observations and recommendations on LVEMP II progress noting that LVEMP II in Kenya is on a positive track. The team visited CDD sub-projects in Nandi, Kericho, Kisumu and Homa Bay Communities.

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The team also visited Homa Bay sewerage treatment plant where rehabilitation and pollution control is underway with support of the World Bank. Among other areas visited were the watershed and cleaner production centers at River Oroba and Kibos Sugar factory.

The LVEMP II has three components, of strengthening institutional capacity for managing shared water and fisheries resources, point source pollution control and prevention, and watershed management.

East African SusWatch Network @ the Mara Day 2013 in Picture

Mara day 2013 was celebrated at Sokoine Grounds in Mugumu town Serengeti district in Tanzania. The chief guest was the Prime minister of Tanzania Hon. Mizengo Pinda, who called upon people to conserve the Mara Basin, renowned as the home to over a million wildebeest, zebra and antelope that migrate across the Serengeti to Masai Mara in Kenya. The Mara River starts from the mountains of Kenya and runs across the Tanzanian border into Lake Victoria. The EA SUSWATCH was present at the celebrations. Here we share with you a pictorial glimpse (Photos: EA SusWatch Network)



Sharing publications at the EASUSWATCH stall at Mara day celebrations



Winners of the EASUSWATCH Schools Essay competition with their teachers and EASUSWATCH Staff at Mara Day celebrations



Senior Tanzanian officials welcoming the Hon Prime Minister - Mizengo Pinda (centre)



Wildebeests at the great migration in Mara

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57% progress in implementing the LVEMP II Community-Driven Development Subprojects across the Lake Victoria Basin

A meeting of the session of Senior Officials for the Lake Victoria Basin Commission was held at Laico Regency Hotel, Nairobi (Kenya) from September 23 – 24, 2013. Among others projects and programmes, the meeting considered the implementation status and progress of the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (LVEMP II). The Meeting was attended by Officials from the Republic of Burundi, Republic of Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Rwanda, and Republic of Uganda. It was attended by the Executive Secretaries of LVBC, LVFO and the Regional Coordinator Cleaner Production Centre. LVBC and LVFO Secretariat staff was also in attendance. East African SusWatch Network attended this meeting at the invitation of LVBC. On behalf of the host country (Kenya), the Director of Projects and Programmes and strategic initiatives in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources – Ms. Agnes Yobterik voiced concerns particularly on the slow pace of funds absorption by LVEMP II given that the project is now more than 4 months into the 2 years ‘no cost extension’ period and has no more than 18 months to achieve the set targets that will enable APL1 Countries (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) to qualify for APL3 (third part of the LVEMP II that depends on performance of the previous parts - APL1 and APL2).

The LVBC Executive Secretary – Dr. Canisius Kanangire urged the LVEMP II Regional Coordinator to take a lead role and ensure that the preparation for APL 3 starts in a good time, based on the experience on the implementation of APL 1 and II. He mentioned that the completed restructuring of the Project has helped both the regional and national level to improve on its implementation. The meeting considered the status of implementation of recommendations of previous Regional Policy Steering Committees (RPSCs), and considered project reports from implementing partners for LVEMP II and other LVBC projects and programmes

In relation to Component 3 (watershed Management), Community-Driven Development sub-projects for environmental conservation and livelihood improvement either completed or are under implementation total 240 in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Rwanda has made progress on the implementation of co-management sub-projects in Bugesera and Ngoma Districts, while Burundi has prepared detailed sub-projects for watershed management on river Waga and Ruvubu and Lake Rweru. Uganda’s lacklustre performance is due to suspension in use of IDA loan funds by the World Bank (reportedly to be lifted soon). Summary of overall performance in CDD implementation below:

CDD Category (stage of implementation)	Kenya	Tanzania	Uganda	Total
Completed and awaiting post completion evaluation	-	10		10
Below 50% of implementation	107	86		193
Above 50% of implementation	11	26		37
Approved by NTSC/NPSC but implementation yet to commence	107	28	66	201
No. of proposals still under the approval process	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	225	150	66	441